

HISTORICAL COMPARISON OF BREAST TISSUE BY IMAGE
PROCESSING

ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

An image processing system and method visually documents and displays changes between historical and later mammographic images, preferably in three dimensions. A composite image is created which visually emphasizes differences between the historical and later images. Preferably three-dimensional, digitized images, displayable in various projections, are stored for archival purposes on computer readable media. An image processor preferably exploits an optical correlator to register the historical and later images accurately. The registered images are then compared, voxel-by-voxel, to detect differences. The composite image is displayed with synthetic colors or other visual clues to emphasize apparent changes (for example, tumor growth or shrinkage).

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